(d) whether any specific suggestions have been received from NGOs and social activists in this regard; and

(e) the steps proposed to give a proper and patient hearing to the less privileged sections of society who want cheaper software?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR) : (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. A meeting is being convened shortly to discuss these issues. Government as a matter of policy does not favour any particular kind of expensive and monopolistic software. Government generally follows a technology neutral policy.

**Recovery of dues from International Maritime Satellite Organisation**

3589. SHRI MURLI DEORA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited failed to recover its dues from the International Maritime Satellite Organisation during the last three years;

(b) if so, the amount involved and the reasons for not effecting the recovery; and

(c) whether any accountability was fixed for it and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) VSNL has informed that there are no pending dues from International Maritime Satellite Organization.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

**Transfer of BSNL employees in Andhra Pradesh**

3590. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that BSNL has resorted to frequent transfers in some districts of Andhra Pradesh;